

Application No. 10/617,221
Amendment dated December 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 16, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 21, wherein said composite frame member ~~is defined by~~ defines one of a front wall and a rear wall of said frame.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 21, wherein ~~said at least two frame members each include an end portion;~~ said end portions of ~~said at least two frame members overlapping~~ overlap one another.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 21, wherein said composite frame member further includes ~~at least three of said frame members, including a~~ central frame member, said central frame member having two opposite ends, said ~~two end frame members end portions overlappingly~~ coupled to respective ones of said two opposite ends of said ~~central frame member~~.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 21, wherein ~~said at least two frame members each include an end portion;~~ said end portions of said at least two frame members ~~overlapping~~ overlap one another and are interlockingly connected to said third frame member.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 21, further comprising a plurality of fasteners securing said ~~at least~~ two frame members to said third frame member.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 21, further comprising:
a seat portion and a backrest portion defined by said frame;
at least one upholstery component attached to said frame; and
at least one cushion supported by said seat portion of said frame.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 22, wherein said ~~at least~~ three frame members each include an end portion, said end portions of said at least three frame members overlappingly coupled to one another ~~in an overlapping manner~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 22, wherein one of said ~~at least~~ three frame members ~~include~~ comprises a central frame member, said central frame member having opposite ends, said two end frame members overlappingly coupled to respective opposite ends of said central frame member.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 12~~ Claim 22, wherein said ~~at least two~~ three frame members include end portions, said end portions ~~overlapping~~ overlappingly coupled to one another and interlockingly connected to said fourth frame member.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 12~~ Claim 13, further comprising a plurality of fasteners securing said ~~at least two~~ three frame members to said fourth frame member.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 22, further comprising:
a seat portion and a backrest portion defined by said frame;
at least one upholstery component attached to said frame; and
at least one cushion supported by said seat portion of said frame.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 23, wherein said separate frame members each include an end portion, said end portions ~~of said frame members~~ overlappingly coupled to one another ~~in an overlapping manner~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The article of furniture of ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 23, wherein at least one of said front wall and said rear wall includes at least three ~~of said~~ said separate frame members, including a central frame member and two end frame members, said central frame member having opposite ends, said two end frame members overlappingly coupled to respective opposite ends of said central frame member.

Claims 19 and 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): An article of furniture, comprising:

a frame, said frame including a plurality of planar frame walls, one said frame wall comprising a composite frame member having a long dimension, said composite frame member including at least two frame members, said two frame members each having an end portion, said two end portions coupled to one another;

a third frame member disposed substantially perpendicularly to said long dimension of said composite frame member, said at least two frame members each interlockingly connected to said third frame member.

Claim 22 (new): An article of furniture, comprising:

a frame including a plurality of planar frame members connected to one another, said frame including a front wall and a rear wall;

at least one of said front wall and said rear wall comprising a composite frame member having a long dimension, said composite frame member including three said frame members coupled to one another in an end-to-end manner; and

said frame including a fourth frame member disposed perpendicularly to said long dimension, at least two of said three frame members interlockingly connected to said fourth frame member.

Claim 23 (new): An article of seating furniture, comprising:

a frame including a seat portion, a backrest portion, a front wall, and a rear wall;

at least one of said front wall and said rear wall comprising a composite frame member, said composite frame member including a plurality of separate planar frame members coupled to one another in an end to end manner; and

said composite frame member including a longitudinal dimension, said frame including a frame member which is disposed perpendicularly to said longitudinal dimension and interlockingly connected to at least two of said plurality of frame members.